

REMARKS

Claims 15, 16, and 20 have been canceled herein without prejudice. Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 17-18 have been amended herein. Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 17-18 are now pending in the Application. No new matter has been added. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The indication that claim 20 recites allowable subject matter is greatly appreciated. As suggested in the Action, claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form (as amended claim 1). Thus claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance. Because claim 20 recites redundant subject matter with respect to amended claim 1, it has been canceled.

The dependent claims 2-3, 5-14, and 17-18 have also been amended to be consistent with the process claim 1 from which they depend. In addition, the element labels such as "1.1", "1.2.1", etc., objected to in the Action with respect to claims 1 and 17 have been removed from these claims. Also claims 15 and 16 which were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 have been canceled.

Thus all of the pending claims 1-3, 5-14, and 17-18 should now be in condition for allowance. Allowance of the Application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 15 and 16, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 1-3 and 5-18, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by

Rechter, et al. 4,056,398 ("Rechter").

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that each of these claims satisfies the statutory mandate and recites features which patentably distinguish these claims over the prior art. However, to put this Application in condition for allowance, Applicants have canceled claims 15, 16, and 20 without prejudice and have amended claim 1 to correspond to allowable claim 20. The cancellation of claims 15 and 16 and the amendment of claim 1 shall not constitute an admission that the original forms of these claims are unpatentable. Applicants reserve the right to file Divisional applications including the original forms of these claims.

Conclusion

All of the pending claims should now be in condition for allowance. Allowance of the Application is therefore respectfully requested.

The undersigned will be happy to discuss any aspect of the Application by telephone at the Office's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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